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Stowmarket
Urban District Council



Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
1937

STOWMARKET :

PRINTED BY NEWBY, 45, IPSWICH STREET.

TO THE
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STOWMARKET,

May, 1938.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Stowmarket Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.**

Area (in acres): 1,668.

Population (Census 1931): 4,296 (old area).

Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population, 1937: 6,431.

Number of Inhabited Houses, December 31st, 1937: 2,011.

Rateable Value: £34,712.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £130.

Social Conditions.

No change.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	93	51	42	{ Birth Rate: 15·08 per 1000. Eng. & Wales: 14·19 per 1000.
Illegitimate	3	3	0	
Stillbirths	1	1	0	{ Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births: 10·3.
Deaths	71	39	32	{ Death Rate: 11·04 per 1000. Eng. & Wales: 12·4 per 1000.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	1

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age: 4.

All Infants per 1000 Legitimate live births: 41·6.
Eng. & Wales: 58.

Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate live births: 43·01.

Deaths from Measles (all ages): Nil.

„ Whooping Cough: Nil.

„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age): Nil.

There were 13 deaths from Cancer, 3 from Tuberculosis (1 Pulmonary), 5 from Influenza, 3 from Bronchitis, 12 from Heart Disease, 3 from Cerebral Hæmorrhage.

Of the 4 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 2 were notified as due to Congenital Debility or Premature Birth.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. S. C. Hounsfield, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., appointed 1918.

Sanitary Inspector. S. H. Senior, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Certificates held: Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

- 2. **Nursing in the Home.** No change.
- 3. **Laboratory Facilities.**
Samples are sent to the County Laboratory.
- 4. **Legislation in Force.** No change.
- 5. **Hospitals.**
Isolation Hospital. No change in 1937.

A complete re-arrangement of ownership and management, to comply with the County Scheme, will come into force on April 1st, 1938. It will be necessary to erect a new Ward Block and a new Administration Block.

Cases admitted during the year ending 31st December, 1937:

			Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	For Ob- servation
From	Stowmarket U.D.	... ..	10	—	—
	„ Thedwastre R.D.	... ..	9	—	—
	„ Gipping R.D.	... ..	34	—	1
	„ Hartismere R.D.	... ..	6	2	—
	„ Thingoe R.D.	... ..	1	1	—
	„ Norfolk	... ..	3	1	—
			—	—	—
	Total	... ..	63	4	1

There was no death in the Hospital during the year.

- 6. **Ambulance Facilities.** No change.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. Water.

The main part of the Town is supplied with water by a Waterworks owned by the Council in Station Road. The water is obtained from two Artesian Wells of an approximate depth of 238 feet each with two sets of electrically driven pumps passing 12,000 gallons per hour. The water is passed through filtering chambers and a softening tank to a service reservoir of 250,000 gallons capacity. This water is of good quality, 25 degrees at the source, and this is softened down to 11 degrees on distribution.

The Combs area is supplied from a Waterworks owned by the Council at the top of Poplar Hill, Combs. There is one artesian well approximately 200 feet deep, and water is pumped by a deep well pump (petrol and paraffin engines) pumping 2,400 gallons an hour. A new high level automatic supply has been completed to the high part of Combs.

The amount of water pumped to the reservoirs and tower during the year shew an increase in each case as follows:

Stowmarket Reservoir	1936.	1937.
	44,549,000 gals.	46,339,000 gals.
Stowmarket Concrete Tower		
	10,860,000 gals.	11,645,000 gals.
Combs Reservoir (estimated)		
	8,667,400 gals.	9,863,000 gals.

28 Houses at the Stowupland end of the town are supplied by the Gipping Rural District Council with water from the Stowupland Waterworks.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

Generally speaking the whole of the populated area of the town is served by sewers falling to 2 sewage pumping stations and from thence to a Sewage Farm. Sewers have been extended in Bury Road and Chilton Avenue. Those parts of the town not sewered are parts of the new area just taken into the town, and consist of 24 houses in Poplar Hill and 20 houses on Needham Road, all at Combs, and 28 houses at Stowupland Road. These houses are drained to septic tanks, cleaned out at intervals by the Council. The Sewage Farm is on the Creting Road and the Sewage Pumping Station is at Prentice Road, both now within the Urban Area. The Sewage is disposed of by land infiltration which is successful in summer time but is liable in winter time to be overburdened with water that cannot be properly dealt with. The large low level sewers were dragged and cleared of sediment during the year. A new sewer has been laid in Poplar Hill ready for taking sewage from the 24 houses mentioned above.

3. Rivers and Streams.

Samples of effluents to the river have been taken in conjunction with the County Council and visits to premises adjoining, have made the river much better.

4. Closet Accommodation.

All those houses where sewers are available have water closet accommodation. Those houses mentioned as being without sewer accommodation (except the 28 at Stowupland who have W.C.'s) and about 25 houses in the old area are without water closets.

5. Public Cleansing.

(a) Dry house refuse is collected twice weekly from the whole town. The refuse is collected in covered carts and is disposed of by tipping and burning on the refuse dump at Bury Road.

(b) The earth closets are emptied by the occupiers of the houses where no sewerage exists. The refuse is buried in the gardens of the houses which have no such closets. Most of these houses have large gardens and no nuisance has been brought to my notice during the year.

(c) Cesspools are emptied by the Council by arrangement with the various owners by means of a sludge cart and pump. The cesspools' contents are disposed of on fields of nearby farmers far away from the roads and houses.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the District.

In accordance with the Public Health Acts all parts of your district are frequently visited by the Sanitary Inspector. A record of inspections made is kept, also a separate register of inspections under the Housing Act, 1930.

No. of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	11
No. of visits to Slaughter Houses or Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	...	900
No. of Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	36
No. of visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	24
No. of Inspections to Fish and Fruit Stalls or Premises	...	...	...	...	300
No. of visits to Tents and Van Dwellers	...	...	...	...	4
No. of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	20
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	15
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	5
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	13

7. Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to Control by the Local Authority.

There is one permanent encampment of Van Dwellers in the district. This encampment is visited from time to time by your Inspector. The vans and sites are always found to be clean and tidy and there is no cause for complaint.

Occasionally other van dwellers visit the town for fairs, and on those occasions your Inspector pays a visit. House refuse is collected by the Council. The site for occasional van dwellers is now being turned into a Car Park.

There is no common Lodging House registered in the district.

There are nine Fish Frying Shops in the Town. All are kept in good order.

8. Other Sanitary Conditions Requiring Notice.

The Sewage Farm is under the control of the Council and a consulting engineer has been engaged to get out a scheme.

Shops Act, 1934.

Re-inspections of shops requiring accommodation were made and 3 W.C.'s were provided during the year and 2 exemption certificates were given on alternative accommodation being provided.

9. Rag Flock Acts, 1911-1928.

There is no "Flock manufactured from Rags" within the definition of the Acts in this District. The upholsterers buy Flock under a guarantee from wholesalers. Two inspections were made under these Acts during the year.

10. Schools.

The Schools within your area are under the control of the County Council. Your officials, however, have certain duties in reference to public health and have visited the Schools within the year for the purpose of inspecting the Sanitary Conveniences provided. All the Schools have main water supply and are properly drained and sewered. One nuisance re drains at a School were found not to be substantiated on inspection, all being in order.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public or Housing Acts)	11
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	28
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	3
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	10
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	9

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	3
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By Owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: | | |
| (a) By Owners | ... .. | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | | Nil |

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:

- | | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | 3 |

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:

- | | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... .. | Nil |

E.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925:

- | | | |
|--|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit | ... .. | Nil |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... .. | Nil |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... .. | Nil |

Housing General.

The Council have commenced building 50 non-parlour and 20 parlour type houses for the needs of the district, most of which are now complete. Additional land to the extent of 77:852 acres has been purchased by the Council for Housing and other purposes. Plans have been approved for the erection of 18 Bungalows for aged persons.

The following shews the number and type of houses owned by the Council.

1935 Housing.

11 to 29 Poplar Hill ...	...	...	...	...	10
2, 4, 6, 8, Newton Road ...	...	...	...	...	4
33 to 67 Stowupland Road ...	...	...	...	...	18
2, 4, 6, 8, Recreation Road ...	...	...	...	...	4
14 to 28 Walnut Tree Walk ...	...	...	...	...	8
43 to 61 Violet Hill Road ...	...	...	...	...	10
39 to 57 Cardinalls Road ...	...	...	...	...	10
2 to 104 Poplar Hill ...	...	...	...	...	52
2 to 96 Hillside ...	...	...	...	...	48
15 to 95 Hillside ...	...	...	...	...	41
1 to 40 Ford Terrace ...	...	...	...	...	40
1 to 40 Edgar Avenue ...	...	...	...	...	40
123 to 177 Stowupland Road ...	...	...	...	...	28
1 to 19 and 23 to 49 Violet Hill ...	...	...	...	...	24
14 to 32 and 42 to 60 Violet Hill Road ...	...	...	...	...	20
1 to 11 Bury Road ...	...	...	...	...	6
17 to 39 Beech Terrace ...	...	...	...	...	12
4 to 26 Takers Lane ...	...	...	...	...	12
1 to 41 Jubilee Avenue ...	...	...	...	...	41
26 to 34 Combs Lane ...	...	...	...	...	5
1 to 44 Cherry Tree Road ...	...	...	...	...	44
1 to 11 St. Edmunds Road ...	...	...	...	...	6
63 to 101 Bury Road	20

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

31 to 49 Poplar Hill	10
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Church Walk Cottages.

Church Walk	8
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Waterworks Cottages.

58 and 60 Union Street	2
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Cemetery Cottage	1
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Total	524
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Repairs to the Council's houses are done by direct labour under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

The following list shews the number and type of repairs done during the year.

House Repairs for 1937.

Ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	...	156
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	134
Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	112
Taps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	180
W.C.'s and Flushes	...	...	...	...	...	180
Damp Walls treated	...	...	...	...	...	39
Doors and Locks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	97
M.H. Covers raised	...	...	...	...	...	2
Paths repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Door Steps raised	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ceilings and Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
Draining Boards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Window Catches repaired	...	...	...	...	...	37
Leaky Pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Chimney Pots	...	...	...	...	...	8
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Rooms Papered	...	...	...	...	...	2
Troughings and Downpipes	...	...	...	...	...	52
Railings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
H.W. Apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	4
Drains defective	...	...	...	...	...	11
Handrails repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Painted	...	...	...	...	...	66
Plastered	...	...	...	...	...	8
Register Stoves fixed	...	...	...	...	...	32
Register Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rooms Distempered	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total						1240

Bungalows.

Work is now being carried out in damp-proofing the walls of all damp bungalows.

A loan has been obtained and the work is well on the way. The general condition of Housing in the Town is good.

Overcrowding.

The number of cases of overcrowding in 1935 and 1936 was 29. Since that time one further case has been found.

The majority of these cases were in the Council's houses. The Council have diminished the overcrowding gradually by the letting of Council houses when empty and with the additional case found the overcrowdings now number 9 cases to be still dealt with.

The permitted numbers for the houses of the working classes have been given out to the various landlords as required.

Demolitions.

A scheme of 34 houses was placed before the Council and decisions were made as follows:

Demolitions	20.
Undertakings	5.
Reconstructions	9.

One house was transferred from Reconstruction to Undertaking and two further houses were taken from the Reconstruction and placed to Demolitions after pulling down adjoining properties, and the work done is as follows:

Demolitions	19.
Undertakings	5.
Reconstructions	1.

Leaving work to be carried out:

Demolitions	3	(3 tenants still in).
Reconstructions	5	(2 tenants still in).
Undertakings	1	(tenant still in).

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are 5 registered Cowkeepers, 13 retailers and one wholesaler, the latter holding a licence for producing pasteurised milk.

Generally speaking the premises are in good condition and inspections are made quarterly.

There were not any notices served during the year.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

There are six Slaughter Houses in the Town which are regularly used. Twelve Butcher's Shops from which meat is sold. The Slaughter Houses and premises where meat is sold or prepared for sale have been frequently visited during the year. No prosecution for any breach of the Public Health Act or Meat Regulations was necessary with regard to food supplies during the year.

A total of 900 visits was made to Slaughter Houses and Butcher's premises during the year.

A total of 2 ton 7 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lbs. of meat was found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption and condemned and destroyed, all the meat being voluntarily surrendered.

Beef:	1807 lbs.
Pork:	2809 lbs.
Kidneys and Liver:	689 lbs.

Fish and Fruit Stalls on the Market Place are inspected every Thursday and Saturday, and Fried Fish Shops are frequently visited. The food was seen to be of fair quality.

There are nine Bakehouses in the Town which are inspected quarterly. There are no underground Bakehouses.

The total number of inspections under the Acts governing Food were 1272.

The standard of cleanliness in all premises where food is stored, prepared, or exposed for sale, has been quite satisfactory. Constant visits from the Public Health Officers keep things up to the required standard.

(c) **Adulteration.**

Action under Acts governing the above is taken by the County Council when necessary.

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food** is not carried out by this Council. Any matters requiring examination would be forwarded to the County Analyst at Ipswich.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. Extract of Report of Factories and Workshops forwarded to Secretary of State to Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.

Factories	...	...	44	2	Nil
Workshops	...	...	36	2	Nil
Workplaces	...	...	12	Nil	Nil
			92	4	Nil

2. **Defects found at above Premises.**

Limewashings required at two Bakehouses.

Removal of manure at Blacksmith's shop.

Limewashing and cleansing of a Workshop.

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

General.

There was very little infectious disease during the year; again, no case of diphtheria, and 10 cases of Scarlet Fever.

There was a widespread epidemic of influenza, starting during the last few days of 1936, definitely imported into 3 or 4 houses by people coming home for Christmas, and subsiding early in March.

There were 5 deaths reported as due to Influenza during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)
during the year 1937.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	10	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	1
Pneumonia	8	—	—
Erysipelas	8	—	—
Other Diseases generally notifiable			
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	1	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

1 treated at home and in hospital. Vision unimpaired.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1937.

Age Periods			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...		3	—		5	—	1	1	1

SUMMARY.

Vital Statistics.

Quite satisfactory; the Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate being slightly better than the Rates for England and Wales in each case.

The Health of the Town has been very good, except for one epidemic of Influenza in the early part of the year.

The Water Supply is excellent and ample, the Water-Softening Plant being quite satisfactory.

The Housing problem is well in hand, the demolition of condemned houses is nearly complete, and there are only a few cases of overcrowding remaining.

The Town has out-grown the present sewerage system; a large expense must be incurred now to inaugurate a satisfactory system. Expert advice has been taken and a satisfactory scheme prepared.

An excellent Swimming Pool, worthy of the Town, with the water filtered and chlorinated, is now open and available to the public.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for the consideration they have always shown me, and the Sanitary Inspector for his assistance, and, having worked in the Town for 40 years, and acted as M.O.H. for the last 20 years, cannot conclude without saying how happy and honoured I have been in so doing; I leave the Town with many regrets, at the same time with every concern and good wish for its future welfare.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. C. HOUNSFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

